

September 21, 2007

**PRESIDENT BUSH'S THREAT TO VETO
BIPARTISAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE BILL:**
What Some Republican Members Have to Say

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA)

- “The president’s understanding of our bill is wrong,” Grassley said, his voice rising with anger. “I urge him to reconsider his veto message based on a bill we might pass, not something someone on his staff told him wrongly is in my bill.” [\[The Hill, 9/21/07\]](#)
- “Drawing lines in the sand at this stage isn’t constructive...I wish he’d engage Congress in a bill that he could sign instead of threatening a veto, and I hope he’ll still do that.” [\[New York Times, 9/21/07\]](#)
- “I think the president thinks there's political hay to be made...As far as I'm concerned, you need to look at the policy and what he wants to do and the fact that his budget is not intellectually honest because you're going to lose kids at \$5 billion.” [\[Reuters, 9/20/07\]](#)

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)

- Asked whether he would vote to override a veto, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), a staunch conservative, said, "You bet your sweet bippy I will...We're talking about kids who basically don't have coverage...I think the president's had some pretty bad advice on this.” [\[Washington Post, 9/21/07\]](#)

Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.)

- “I’m very, very disappointed...I’m going to be voting for it.” [\[Washington Post, 9/21/07\]](#)

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine)

- “I am very concerned about the president’s threat to veto. I think it would be a tremendous mistake...I can’t believe the president would veto a program that benefits low-income children.” [\[Bangor Daily News, 9/20/07\]](#)

Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine)

- “Our constituents want real solutions on covering the uninsured, not partisan gridlock on one of the most critical issues facing our nation...I would strongly encourage the president to reconsider his short-sighted veto threat and work with Congress to extend health insurance to millions more deserving children.” [\[Bangor Daily News, 9/20/07\]](#)

Sen. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.)

- “I’m optimistic we can get a significant number of Republicans...It’ll be a good vote for them. They can go back home and try to assuage the feelings of their constituents who have heartburn about their views on the war or other things. And it shows that, if they feel strongly about something, they are willing to stand up to the president and tell him.” [\[Washington Post, 9/21/07\]](#)